

School Tobacco Policy, 2009

Summary of Highlights

Data for the 2009 School Policy Survey were collected from January through September 2009. Tobacco Coordinators/Specialists and other local health department personnel were trained to conduct interviews with school principals or designees from all public and private Kentucky high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools serving 6-12th grades. The total sample size comprised 657 schools from 120 counties (76.4% participation rate). While most were public schools, 14.6% were private. Completed surveys were submitted online or via FAX or using Teleform® software.

- Nearly all schools prohibit indoor smoking for students, teachers, and visitors (98.9%), but only 52.7% have a policy banning smoking on school grounds for employees (similar to 2007 but up from 46.6% in 2005).
- Of the schools that allow employees to smoke outside on school grounds, 82.9% reported that smoking is allowed in a designated area outdoors, similar to 2007.
- Only 52.7% prohibit smoking at outdoor events that occur after school hours (up slightly from 49.7% in 2007).
- Nearly all (95.6%) schools prohibit smokeless tobacco, and of those, 63.9% do not allow it outdoors on school grounds.
- Most schools (86.6%) assign personnel other than the principal to monitor problem areas for smoking (up from 81.0% in 2007).
- All schools report that monitoring is very effective (85.1%) or somewhat effective (14.9%) in curtailing student smoking in the building (up from 77.1% very effective in 2007).
- Over three-fourths (76.3%) of schools post no-smoking signs, up slightly from 73.2% in 2007.
- When students violate the smoking policy for the first time, 6.7% require a smoking education program (down slightly from 7.9% in 2007). Only 1.2% provide voluntary cessation classes (down slightly from 2.6% in 2007), and 1.7% mandate a smoking cessation class, similar to 2007.
- About one-third (33.0%) of schools provide direct smoking cessation services to students or employees, similar to 2007 (33.5%).
- Of those that provide cessation services at school, 41.0% make health department cessation classes or individual counseling available; 35.9% provide TEG; 32.3% provide TAP; and 26.7% provide Cooper/Clayton.
- 6.1% of schools report fundraising in bingo halls that allow smoking (down slightly from 8.1% in 2007).
- Of schools that report school safety officers enforce tobacco use and possession laws, 14.9% say they respond *often*, 72.9% confiscate the tobacco products, and 14.9% refer to a tobacco education program (down from 20.7% in 2007).
- 3.2% of schools own, lease, or borrow land to grow tobacco (similar to 3.6% in 2007). Of these 21 schools, 57.1% have students participating in tobacco production at school.
- Only 0.6% of schools receive money from tobacco companies (down from 1.2% in 2007).

- 9.1% report that they are thinking about changing their smoking policy, and 19.8% *are interested or very interested* in receiving assistance on changing their policies (27.9% were interested or very interested in 2007).
- 26.0% teach *Life Skills Training*, about the same as 2007 (27.5%); 24% teach the new version of *DARE* (26% in 2007); and 5.5% teach *Project Alert* (down from 12.2% in 2007).

This survey was completed as part of a contract between the Kentucky Department for Public Health and the University of Kentucky College of Nursing and was prepared by:

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